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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/849,477 | 05/07/2001 | Hiroshi Murakami | 1110-0289P | 9497 |
| 2292 | 7590 | 03/18/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH | | | POON, KING Y | |
| PO BOX 747 | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747 | | | 2624 | |
| DATE MAILED: 03/18/2004 | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

| | |
|---|--|
| Application No. 09/849,477 Examiner King Y. Poon | Applicant(s) MURAKAMI, HIROSHI |
| Art Unit 2624 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/25/2001, paper number 2.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 6-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 6-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 07 May 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/873,463.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
3. Claims 6-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 6: Claim 6 recites the limitation "one memory for delaying said input color image signals" in line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is unclear whether the "input color image signals" is referring to the input color image signals that is to be processed by the luminance image signal generator or other input color image signals. In the claims, it appears an compressed unsharp image signal is generated AFTER the input color image signals is processed by a luminance image signal generator. If the "input color image signals" is the input color image signals that are to be processed by the luminance image signal generator, it is unclear how it is possible to subtract the compressed unsharp image signals from the

input color image signals before the input color image signals is processed by the luminance image signal generator.

Regarding claim 8: Claim 8 recites the limitation "images signals" in lines 2-3.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is unclear whether the image signals are referring to the unsharp image signals, the input color image signals or the compressed unsharp image signals. It is also unclear how the same image signals are written to one FIFO memory and read out of another FIFO memory, sequentially while the FIFO memory are disposed in parallel.

Regarding claim 9: Claim 9 recites the limitation "images signals" in line 4.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is unclear whether the image signals are referring to the unsharp image signals, the input color image signals or the compressed unsharp image signals.

Regarding claim 10: Claim 10 recites the limitation "images signals" in lines 6-8.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is unclear whether the image signals are referring to the unsharp image signals, the input color image signals or the compressed unsharp image signals.

Regarding claims 7, 11-13: Claims 7, 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph because they depend on rejected claim 6.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to King Y. Poon whose telephone number is (703) 305-0892 or to Supervisor Mr. David Moore whose phone number is (703) 308-7452.

March 15, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "King Y. Poon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical orientation.